

EDITORIALS

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE BINDING OF THIS ISSUE?

There are two methods of binding magazines: one by *sewing* and the other by *stapling*.

Sewed magazines open out *flat* at any page, while those fastened with wire staples will *not* open out flat. Heretofore CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has been stapled. This issue is sewed. The cost is not more than \$90 per issue, of 5500 copies, over and above the cost of stapling.

This issue is sewed to make a practical demonstration between the two methods. Communicate with Dr. Emma W. Pope, Secretary of the California Medical Association, and tell her which method you prefer. A postcard will do.

THE 1926 SESSION OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Oakland and the physicians of Alameda County are hosts to the California Medical Association at its seventy-fifth annual session to be held during the week beginning Monday, April 26, 1926.

Oakland is a splendid city, easily accessible by water, motor, and rail transportation; its hotels and other accommodations for visitors are excellent, and its people hospitable.

Our Alameda County members have planned well and worked hard to make the stay of visiting doctors entertaining and instructive, and they are prepared to take care of all who attend.

We are meeting in the home town of President E. N. Ewer, and Clarence A. De Puy is chairman of the committee of arrangements.

Monday and Tuesday will be largely given over to clinics in the various Oakland hospitals, to be conducted by distinguished invited physicians and surgeons.

Ample social entertainment has been provided, including some golf tournaments.

The program is published elsewhere in this issue.

UTAH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Elsewhere in this issue is published an outline of the program of the Utah Medical Association, which holds its annual session on May 6, 7, and 8.

It appears from this program that the Utah Association is adhering to the plan of having all its meetings general ones. The complete program, with the names of officers and committees, has not been received in time to include in this issue.

"THE GOLD-HEADED CANE"

Paul Hoeber, Inc., has rendered a service to physicians and the cause they espouse in making this exquisitely beautiful "Autobiography of the Gold-Headed Cane," by William Macmichael, available to all who care to read.

This story was first issued in 1827 and a second edition in the succeeding year. A third edition, containing other matter and edited by William Munk,

was issued in 1884. The present printing (1925) is from the second edition (1828) with an introduction by Sir William Osler and a preface by Francis R. Packard. Its 250 pages contain fully twice as many pleasurable stimulants to reflection that will course through the mind of the physician who will leisurely peruse the story as there are pages in the book.

In the unfolding of the story of the beginnings of scientific medicine the reader secures entrancing glimpses into the lives of a score of pioneers whose names are household words today. The gold-knobbed cane, as is well known, was for a period a universally accepted identification of the physician, but THE Gold-Headed Cane had a crossbar for a top instead of a knob. This distinction Francis Packard tells us is explained by Munk by the statement that Radcliffe, its first owner, was a rule unto himself and, therefore, preferred a handle of a distinctive character for his cane. He succeeded in his purpose so completely that his cane now rests in a mahogany and glass case in the Royal College, but the innovation was the beginning of the end of gold-headed canes as hall marks of physicians.

THE Gold-Headed Cane was carried successively by Radcliffe, Mead, Askew, Pitcairn and Baillie, and bears their various arms engraved upon its head. A foretaste of the cane's revelations is gathered from this beginning of its story:

"When I was deposited in a corner closet of the library, on the 24th of June, 1825, the day before the opening of the New College of Physicians, with the observation that I was no longer to be carried about, but to be kept amongst the reliques of that learned body, it was impossible to avoid secretly lamenting the obscurity which was henceforth to be my lot. Formerly the *entrée* of palaces had been open to me; I had been freely admitted into the houses of the great and the rich; but now I was doomed to darkness, and condemned to occupy the corner of a library—spacious and splendid, it must be allowed, but where I was surrounded by nothing but the musty manuscripts of defunct doctors."

A leisurely perusal of this medical historical classic will recharge a doctor's "B" batteries and he may lay the book aside with a readjusted sense of values.

FUTURE MEDICAL MEETINGS

All Western medical and health agency organizations are invited to keep California and Western Medicine supplied with the dates, name and address of executive officer of coming meetings for insertion in this directory.

American Medical Association, Olin West, Chicago, Secretary, April 19-23, Dallas, Texas.

California Medical Association, Emma W. Pope, Balboa Building, Secretary, April 26 to May 1, Oakland, California.

Nevada Medical Association, Horace J. Brown, Reno, Secretary, September 24-25, Reno, Nevada.

Utah Medical Association, Frank B. Steele, Salt Lake City, Secretary, May 6-8, Salt Lake City.

Pacific Coast Surgical Association, Edgar L. Gilcreest, San Francisco, Secretary, February, 1927, Del Monte.

Pacific Northwest Medical Association, Frederick Eplen, Spokane, Secretary, July 1-3, Spokane.

Pacific Coast Oto-Ophthalmological Society, Kaspar Pischel, San Francisco, President, April 26, 27, 28, San Francisco.

The influence of surgery upon medicine has almost reached its limit, and from this time on every step in advance in medical science will set the surgical indicator back a little nearer to vanishing point. It needs no great degree of prescience or second sight to make this prognostication, but only a discernment of the signs of the times, a mind alert to read the handwriting on the wall. It might, with equal justification, be said that the advance of internal medicine has been enormously greater than that of surgery.—Medical Standard.